

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04651 141239Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 050180

O 141152Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9780

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 4651

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CB, ASEAN, MY

SUBJECT: ASEAN AMBASSADORS CONSIDERING NEGOTIATIONS FORMULA

REF: PHNOM PENH 4578 AND 4626

1. MALAYSIAN CHARGE ISMAIL AMBIA THIS MORNING SHED MORE LIGHT ON DISCUSSIONS (REFTELS) WHICH THE ASEAN AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS HERE HAVE BEEN HOLDING AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH CERTAIN KHMER LEADERS WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES TO THE KHMER CONFLICT.

2. AMBIA CALLED ON THE DCM TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL AID REQUEST. IT EMERGED IN THE DISCUSSION THAT, IN HIS VIEW, IF THE U.S. CONGRESS WERE TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL AID REQUEST, THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE TIME NEEDED FOR THE ASEAN GROUP OF MISSION CHIEFS IN PHNOM PENH TO COMPLETE THE PLAN THEY ARE WORKING ON TO FIND A RESOLUTION OF THE CAMBODIA CONFLICT.

3. ACCORDING TO AMBIA, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH UNNAMED MEMBERS OF THE GKR LEADERSHIP THE NEED FOR THE RESIGNATION OF NOT ONLY LON NOL, BUT THE "REMOVAL" ALSO OF THE OTHER SIX KHMERS ON THE REPUBLIC SIDE WHO HAVE REPREATEDLY BEEN CITED BY THE OTHER SIDE AS THOSE WHO ARE TO BE ELIMINATED. AMBIA INDICATED THAT IF THESE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04651 141239Z

SEVEN CAN BE PUT ASIDE, THE WAY WILL BE OPEN FOR FINDING

A SETTLEMENT " IN THE ASIAN MANNER" WITH THE OTHER SIDE.
(COMMENT: OF THE SEVEN, ONLY THREE NOW HOLD POSITIONS
IN THE GKR: LON NOL, SIRIK MATAK, AND LONG BORET.)
AMBIA INDICATED THAT THE KHMERS WITH WHOM THE CHANGES
WERE DISCUSSED WERE VERY MUCH IN AGREEMENT WITH THE
ASEAN PLAN.

4. AMBIA SAID HE FRANKLY DID NOT BELIEVE THE U.S. HAD
EXHAUSTED ALL AVENUES OF APPROACH TO THE OTHER SIDE,
AS CLAIMED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S RELEASE LAST WEEK OF
INFORMATION ABOUT U.S. EFFORTS TO GET NEGOTIATIONS
STARTED. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, AN "ASIAN" APPROACH
IS NOW I ORDER, USING WHAT HE SUGGESTED WOULD BE THE
TRADITIONAL METHODS OF INDIRECTION, OUT OF THE GLARE OF
PUBLICITY, AS HE PUT IT, "UNDER A TREE IN A PAGODA OR
VILLAGE." HE CONSIDERED ADAM MALIK MIGHT BE IDEALLY
SUITED FOR AN INTERMEDIARLY ROLE.

5. AMBIA SAID THAT AT THIS POINT THE DISCUSSIONS OF HIS
ASEAN COLLEAGUES ARE ESSENTIALLY SELF-INITIATED AND HAVE
NOT BEEN THE RESULT OF SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR
RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT
SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF, HE WAS OPERATING IN THIS AREA WITH
A GREAT DEAL OF LATITUDE WHICH HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY
HIS GOVERNMENT. HE IMPLIED THAT SUCH WAS THE CASE WITH
OTHERS OF HIS ASEAN COLLEAGUES, FOR EXAMPLE THE INDONESIAN
AMBASSADOR.

6. AMBIA INDICATED THAT JAPANESE AMBASSADOR KURINO HAD
PLAYED AN EXPECIALLY HELPFUL ROLE IN THE DISCUSSIONS
TO DATE. THE JAPANESE ROLE IN WHATEVER WERE TO TRANS-
PIRE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE APPARENT, HE SAID, BECAUSE
OF CONTINUING HOSTILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO JAPANESE
INFLUENCE IN GENERAL, AND "BECAUSE THE JAPANESE ARE
CONSIDERED THE LACKEYS OF THE AMERICANS IN SOME QUARTERS."

7. AMBIA EMPHASIZED THAT CONTINUING U.S. MILITARY AND
ECONOMIC AID TO CAMBODIA WOULD BE ESSENTIAL, AT LEAST
FOR A TIME, IF THE APPROACH WHICH HIS COLLEAGUES ARE
ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP IS TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04651 141239Z

ONLY THROUGH CONTINUED AID, HE SAID, COULD THE NECES-
SARY STABILITY IN PHNOM PENH BE MAINTAINED WHICH WOULD
SERVE AS A NECESSARY BACKDROP FOR AN APPROACH TO THE
OTHER SIDE. AMBIA SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES THOUGHT
THEY COULD ACHIEVE THE REMOVAL OF THE SEVEN "UNTOUCHABLES"
IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS' TIME, FOLLOWING WHICH PERHAPS THREE
MONTHS WOULD BE NEEDED TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT WITH
THE KC. THUS, U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO THE

GKR WOULD BE NEEDED UNTIL JUNE 30 AT LEAST.

8. WHEN THE DCM INQUIRED WHAT LEVERAGE THE ASEAN DIPLOMATS POSSESSED TO GET THE GKR LEADERSHIP TO AGREE TO WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO WORK OUT, AMBIA REPLIED WITH SOME EMOTION: "VERY SIMPLE. IF THEY DON'T GO ALONG I LEAVE, CLOSE MY EMBASSY, AND SO WILL THE INDONESIANS AND THE OTHERS."

9. COMMENT: AMBIA DID NOT ASK FOR OUR REACTION TO HIS IDEAS, AND NONE WAS GIVEN. HE APPARENTLY MERELY WISHED TO KEEP US ADVISED OF WHAT THE ASEAN DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN UP TO, AND TO STRESS ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING U.S. SUPPORT TO GKR IF ANY SOLUTION IS TO BE WORKED OUT. END COMMENT.

10. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM, THE INDONESIAN DCM, JANWAR DJANI, MADE A SIMILARLY STRONG PITCH THAT IT IS TIME FOR THE MARSHAL TO STEP DOWN AND FOR A COMPLETE CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP ON THIS SIDE OF THE CONFLICT TO BE ARRANGED. HE SAID THAT UNLESS THIS WERE DONE SOON THERE WAS NO HOPE OF THIS SIDE SURVIVING MILITARILY, EVEN WITH ADDITIONAL AMERICAN ASSISTANCE.
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM04651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750089-1097
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750350/aaaabsho.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 4578, 75 AND 4626
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN AMBASSADORS CONSIDERING NEGOTIATIONS FORMULA
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CB, MY, ASEAN, (AMBIA, ISMAIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006